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Reminiscences - No. 15

We left Mormon Island on the last day of June, and on that morning an arrival from San Francisco brought the mail from the States. This had gone via Mazatlan to the Sandwich Islands and thence to the Coast, which was the mail route to San Francisco in those days. Subsequently the "pony express" was established across the continent, but nobody's wildest dreams. had yet even hinted at an overland rail-The news brought by the mail to Mormon Island on the occasion referred to was very important, being the announcement of the fact that peace was concluded between Mexico and the United States, and that California was ceded to the latter. As may be supposed, this news was welcome to the unpers, and was received with much imprompts demonstration of refoicing. What there was in the shape of fire arms was brought out, and each possessor of a gun fired a salute on his own book. (revolvers were as yet uncommon) and the liquor booths, of which there were two at the Island, had a brisk run of custom for a -De. Apother cause of excitement that morning was the occurrence of the first instance of crime, so far as known, among the miners. Two men, as was often the case, worked as partners, lodging together in a tent, and keeping the proceeds of their digging in one common receptacle, a bag buried in the sand inside the tent. On this particular morning, one of the partners had gone down early to the river to dig, leaving the other to prepare breakfast. After waiting an unusually long time for his mate to call him from the top of the bank to come to breakfast, the one who had got a sharp appetite by digging and washing in the ice-cold water of the river, went up to his camp, to find that his mate had decamped, carrying off a horse and the joint stock of gold dust, amounting, it was said, to some lifty ounces. There was great indignation among the miners at this outrage, which they considered as particularly mean-the stealing from "a pard" of so pitiful a sum, right on the spot where it could be so easily dug. The one or two horses in camp were speedily saddled and men with shot-guns went in pursuit of the thief, but I never heard of his having been caught. I doubt if he would have been lynched to death, for our people had not yet been goaded by outrage and crime, as was subsequently the case, to take the law into their own hands.

Three or wagons, belonging to a family from Santa Cruz, formed our train from Mormon Island to Weber's Creek. We were three days on the road, and the wagon containing the joint stock of myself and Beardsley got upset on a side hill late in the afternoon of the second day, so we camped down there for the night. Myself and the driver, a California half-white, went on to a spring two or three miles further where the other wagons were camped, he to get assistance to come in the morning to right our vehicle, and I to get a jug of water to carry back to our camp on the hillside. It was already dark when I set out on my return, carrying the jug of water in one hand and a chunk of fresh dark, and the road led all the way through a forest of trees, the dense growth of which rendered the darkness almost palpable. I knew when I was on the road by feeling with my feet for the rats made in the soil by the carts. It was a very long three miles, and when by the rising ground I knew I was pretty near camp, I shouted to Beardsley and was gratified by hearing him respond near at hand. He had heaped up a mound of dry leaves and twigs to which, as I joined him, he applied a match, and the big flame that leaped up illuminated the hillside and the plain over which I had come, for a wide space. We were surrounded by handreds of coyotesa creature between a fox and a wolf-that had evidently been jogging along with me, attracted by the beef I carried, all the way from the other camp. They are mischievens, and great thiever, but arrant cowards.

That same night we had another visitor, a big grizzly bear. We did not see, al-though we beard him, overhauling a bag of dried meat with which be made quite free, but his tracks were plain enough all about us in the morning, and from the size -94 inches across-indicating that he must have been as large as an ox. Our friends at the other camp were similarly visited by perhaps the same bear that night, and lost a quarter of beef that was hung up at the tail of a wagon.

Weber's Creek, where we located our mining camp and pitched our tent, we found to be quite dry, except where here and there was a pool of standing water. From the appearance of its bed, this must have been quite a stream in the season of winter rains. The settlement which eventually grew up here was first named Hang-town, in bonor of a lynching affair which took piace there in early days, and was afterwards and is now known by the more civilized name of Placerville. The gold which was found almost anywhere in the bed and banks of the creek and in the ravines leading to it, was not "dust" like that found on the forks of the American and Feather rivers, but coarse and lumpy, the pieces varying in size from small bird-shot up to lumps weighing several ounces—rare instances were known of a pound or more found in one piece. I had better luck at the dry diggings than at Mormon luck at the dry diggings than at Mormon Island. I struck into a ravine that came down a moderately steep hillside, and in mining perlance, "struck it rich." My first pan full of earth from the crevice of this ravine, when washed out in a pool in the creek, left about eighty dollars worth of coarse gold, by weight. The work was a good deal alower than washing by a "credie" on the river bars, but it paid year much better. I got out about twe ve were die " on the river bars, but it paid very much better. I got out about twe ve ounces the first day. Beardsley, my partner, was of a commercial turn of mind, and it was agreed between us that he should remain at the tent and attend to the sale of our goods, while I bunted for gold by digging. Our "goods"—I never felt entirely acusted about the first item in the invoice—mainly consisted of sundry cases of brandy, (bought from the master of a French ship in San Francisco for \$12 a dusen) a box or two of raisins, and a lot of pipes and tobacco. My partner's mercantile aptitude was such that he sold the

SATURDAY PRESS.

HONOLULU, H. I., SATURDAY DECE MBER, 17, 1881. VOLUME IL, NO. 16.

brandy at an average of \$8 per bottle, with quick sales at that; I actually saw him selling raisins to digger Indians by weight, putting their gold in one side of the scales and raisins in the other. The "gellorious ' Fourth of July occurred soon after our arrival, and the miners had a good time generally, more especially in view of the news recently at hand of the termination of the Mexican war and that California was become part and parcel of Uncle Sam's domain.

It was during the continuance of these festivities, that an incident occurred which illustrated the condition of society among the earlier miners, beyond the influence of law and police, and before the coming in of the era of reckless violence which afterwards to so great an extent ruled the interior of California. Among the new comers that constantly put in an appearance at the creek, one day came also no less a person than John Ricord, late Attorney-General of the Hawaiian Islands. He had left Honolulu in the summer of 1847 for Tahiti, and after a brief stay there had somehow drifted to California, and, as a matter of course, to the mines. Among the miners was a man named Colson, who had also resided on these Islands, and who in 1846, together with the late L. L. Torof manslaughter. It seems that the two accused were interested in cattle raising at Ulupalakua, and that in protecting their stock from thieves, they, or one of them. bert, had been tried at Mani on a charge stock from thieves, they, or one of them, had shot a native, who eventually died from the effects of the wound. Colson was proved to have fired the gun. It has been said that legal proceedings were carried on in a somewhat peculiar manner in these Islands thirty or forty years ago. However, Torbert was acquitted and Colson punished by a pecuniary fine, Mr. Ricord being the Crown prosecutor. Now, away off in these California wilds, they met for the first time since the trial, accuser and accused. The latter, who was excited by drink, became much enraged, accusing drink, became much enraged, accusing No. 114 Fort St., opposite Pantheon Stables.

Ricord of having worked d—d hard to get Boots and Shoes Made to Order, of Hest Ma him hing, unfairly, but that now they were at last on equal terms. Ricord, who behaved very coolly throughout, said he had only done his sworn duty as a public officer, without personal malice, and advised the man to let it drop. But with a increased potations he became still more excited, and ran off to get his rifle, swear- Forwarding and Commission Merchants ing that he would have Ricord's life. In the crowd which gathered to listen, was a number of Western men, from Kentucky and Missouri, who looked on with stolid faces. But when Colson came back with his rifle, ready for murder on the instant, -several of these big, quiet, matter of fact fellows promptly stepped forward and disarmed him. And as they did so, one of them remarked, in a slow, unexcited, but emphatic manner, "See byar, stranger, that man aint armed, and ye can't shoot a unarmed man." And so the affair ended, for that time at least, and I heard no more of either party, Ricord having left the creek on the following day for new dig-

gings reported as discovered on the Stanis-

laus River.

during the first six months of the gold diggings. A mile up the creek from our camp, was established a family from Santa Croz. The father was an Irishman who had lived in the country many years, was married to a native California woman and had raised a large family, mostly grown up daughters at that time. On the bank of the creek he had erected a large thatched booth as a residence, in the front part of which he sold groceries, including, of course, liquors. His pretty daughters sang and played the guitar very well, and naturally the place became a favorite resort

Ranges, Tim. Sheet from and Copper Ware, keep con for the miners after the day's work was over and on Sundays. One morning early messenger from the Irishman went through the camps with the information that he had a "nigger" a prisoner, who had been guilty of some grave offense, and that he wanted the "boys" to come up and decide what should be done with him. On our arrival at Mac's, we found nearly the entire population within a radius of five miles assembled in grave deliberation. The prisoner who, was as black as night, sat on a log with his hands tied. The offence with which he stood-or rather sat, charged, was the having attempted, on the preceding evening, to take some liberties of a peculiarly insulting nature, with one of the landlord's daughters. The matter was fully discussed among the "boys," and while all agreed that the offense was a very outrageous one, seeing that it was committed by a "nigger" against a white woman, the opinions were very divergent as to the proper punishment to be administered. Some -a small minority, however were for shooting or hanging; others, too lenicat perhaps, were in favor of simply banishing him from the diggings with a warning not to be seen there again. It ended in the appointment of three judges, who were empowered to ffx the penalty. These, (of whom Beardsley and I were two, and a Kentuckian made the third) retired up the hill-side among the pines to consult together, while the crowd below proceeded to "liquor." The sentence was, that the prisoner should receive thirty-nine stripes well laid on the bare back with the riata, (a rope of plaited leather thongs) be furnished with two days grab, and ordered to leave the diggings instanter, on pain of being shot on sight. This decision was received with applause by all, (except the darkey) and was at once and vigorously carried out. This was, I think, the fire instance of lynch-law that occurred in the mines of California. H. L. S.

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Resources of the Company as at 31st December, 1886;

REVENUE POR THE YEAR 1880 -- Fire Premiums and In-E. HOFFSCHLAEGER & CO., Agents for the Hawaiian Islands TRANS-ATLANTIC FIRE INSURANCE COMPANY,

Capital of the Company & Reserve. Reichsmark 6,000,000 their Re-Insurance Companies 101,650,000 Total...... Reichsmark 107,650,000 NORTH CERMAN

FIRE INSURANCE COMPANY, Capital of the Company & Reserve. Relchsmark 8,830,000 their Re-Insurance Companies 35,000,000 Total...... Reichsmark 43,830,000

SCHWEIZERISCHE LLOYD **RUCK VERSICHERUNGS GESELLSCHAFT** THE UNDERSIGNED, GENERAL AGENTS

of the above three companies for the Hawaiian falands, are prepared to insure Balidings, Furniture, Merchandise and Produce, Machinery, &c., also Bugar and Rice Mills, and ressels in the harbor, against loss or damage by fire, on the most favorable terms.

884 19

H. HACKFELD & CO. GERMAN LLOYD Marine Insurance Company of Berlin.

FORTUNA General Insurance Company of Berlin. THE ABOVE INSURANCE COMPANIES have established a General Agency here, and the indersigned, tieneral Agents, are authorized to take tinks against the Dangers of the Sess at the

Most Reasonable Rates, and on the Most Favorable Terms.

867 ly P. A. SCHAEFER & CO., General Agents. Guava Jelly, REFINED A. NO. 1 SUGAR

-BY-F. HORN. Pratical Confectioner & Pastry Cook BAKERY Ploneer Steam Candy, Factory Lemon and Tamarind Syrups always on hand Tamarinds Put up in A. No. 1 Refined Sugars, highly recommended for Sea voyages.

American, French, English German Pastries Made to Order at short Notice Wedding Cakes Ornamented In the highest Style of Art.

Rich fresh home made Chocolate Creams, Cocoanut and Cream Candies. No. 71 Hotel Street bet. Nausan and Fort

THOMAS LACK. Will attend to all orders in the CLON, GUN & GENERAL REPAIR LINE. He will give special attention to cleaning, repairing and regulating Sewing Machines, and all other kinds of Light Machinery and Metal Work of every description. Blacksmithing, etc.

Also, on hand and for sale cheap,

A Variety of Sewing Machines Machine Oil, Woodles, &c., &c., &c. Sewing Machine Tuckers, Binders, and all other extra nd duplicate parts of machines supplied on short no-ice. As Best Machine Twist. Sole Agent in this Kingdom for

The Florence Sewing Machine, from \$40 to \$50.
White Sewing Machine, from \$45 to \$75.
Home Shuttle Sewing Machine, from \$15 to \$55.
Let Including all extras. KNOWLES' STEAM AND VACUUM PUMPS THE UNDERSIGNED HAVE JUST

received per Any Turner, from Boston, a full asorthogen of these celebrated Pumps, which are goaranced to be cheaper and better than any other sigle of
nump imported. We call the attention of planters paricularly to the vacuum Pump, which is less compile
atted and more servicable than other pumps.

873 den 15 tf The Germania Market AN BEEN THOMOCUMLY REMOVATED

BEEF, MUTTON, VEAL AND LAMB, From Choicest Herds. Pork Sausages, Eniognas, Head Chasse, German sausages, de., always on hand, as also the best of Poul-ry and Fish. Our Seate are all cut and put up in Eastern style. All bodges faithfully attended to, and delivered in any part of the city.

BAUPP & SCHRADER, Proprietore. COLUMBIA RIVER SALMON, IN

HOLLISTER & CO

INFORM THE PUBLIC That they have moved into their

NEW AND COMMODIOUS STORE. In the Fire Proof Building

NO. 59 NUUANU STREET. Three doors below their old stand, where may be found

the most complete assortment o Drugs, Chemicals & Toilet Articles IN THE CITY.

Among a few of their Specialties may be found a Pull

The Crown Goods CONSISTING OF

Perfumes, Soaps, Cosmetics,

AND THE CELEBRATED Opaline Face Powder.

A LARGE ASSORTMENT

OF JOHN GORNELL'S Hair and Tooth Brushes.

Camelline for the Complexion and Teeth, LUBIN'S AND PINAUD'S

Soaps Cosmetics and Face Powder, CELLULOID TRUSSES Especially adapted to this climate.

Humphrey's Homeopathic Specifics,

(Carbolle Acid and Chloride of Lime, for disinfect-Agents for P. Lorillard & Co's Celebrated Tobaccos, and Drawing Room

Tobacce and Cigarettes, Buchanan & Lyle's Tobaccos,

WM. S. KIMBALL & CO'S VANITY FAIR

Goodwin & Co's Old Judge TOBACCO AND CIGARETTES

ALWAYS IN DMANDE! Among our One Hundred brands of CIGARS, we

would call especial attention to the Hon Bardwell Slote."

They also continue to manufacture Soda Water in all its Branches

BelfastGingerAle.

Importers and Dealers in

BUILDING MATERIALS!

JUST RECEIVED

LARGE AND WELL-SELECTED CARGOES

SCANTLING. TIMBER, PLANK, BOARDS,

ALSO, ON HAND A Most Complete Stock of

LATEST STYLES. HAILS, LOCKS,

REDWOOD Scantling; Plank, surface and rough

ALSO, IN STOCK.

WHITE LEAD. PAINT OIL

Cines.

SASH BLINDS ALL GIRES.

Which we have lately introduced here, and which is rapidly growing into favor and demand.

TOBACCO AND CIGARETTES. Which are so well known all over the world as to ndes

The Favorite Red Brand, Pedro Murias The Fragrant Stump.

Together with their

WILDER & CO.

LUMBER

ARRIVALS !

ALL THE USUAL STOCK SIZES PENCING AND PICKETS

Y FINE ASSORTMENT OF WALL PAPER

BUTTS, HINGRS. BOLTS, SCREWS, Etc

Boards, surfaced and rough; Battens, Pickets, Rustic, Luttice, Clapboard. Paint and Whitewash |Brushes,

METALLIC AND OTHER PAINTS!

Firewood.

Of Eastern and Galifornia Make. OR SALE IN QUANTITIES TO SUIT

BOLLES & Co.